The Citizen

BLACKBURN, DARWEN AND HYNDBURN

Wednesday, June 29, 2011 | The **local** newspaper for our community | blackburncitizen.co.uk

IN YOUR SUPER LANCASHIRE TELEGRAPH NEXT WEEK

YOUTH ZONE EXCLUSIVE

Chief reporter David Watkinson gets a tour of progress at £8m East Lancs centre

Disease awareness campaign

New bid to beat cancer

By DAVID WATKINSON

A NEW lung cancer awareness campaign has been launched in East Lancashire to reduce the number of people who die from the disease.

People, particularly those from the South Asian community, are being urged to be more aware of the early signs and symptoms of lung cancer.

NHS East Lancashire said the new £500,000 campaign would be called 'Lung Cancer – Get if Off Your Chest'.

Lung cancer claims the lives of around 258 lives per year in East Lancashire, making it one of the area's biggest killers.

People in East Lancashire are 20 per cent more likely to die of lung cancer than the national average.

The campaign asks people to visit their GP if they have experienced persistent cough, a change in a cough or unexplained shortness of breath for three weeks or more.

Dr Nirmala Nagpal said: "Spotting early signs and symptoms of what could be lung cancer and getting these checked by a doctor can mean that the disease is diagnosed more quickly.

"Chances are it isn't cancer, but it's important to get checked out, just to make sure. When cancer is diagnosed at an early stage then treatment is more likely to be effective with a better chance of long-term survival."

Dr Nagpal said smoking tobacco, including cigarettes or sheesha, was the single biggest risk factor for lung cancer.

"Earlier diagnosis is key to boosting cancer survival. Making people more aware of what to look out for, and encouraging them to visit their GP with anything unusual, is vital."

Musical: Emma's a flirty Gertie!

CHARACTER PAIR: Natasha Bondre as Ali Hakim, left, and Emma Watts as Gertie Carnes during a rehearsal for Oklahoma at Westholme School theatre from tonight until Saturday, at 7:30pm.

Lotto win for 'nicest couple'

Lottery winners Geoff and Hilary Bennette celebrate scooping their £3.5million jackpot – their first buy will be a new Mini Cooper

STORY 3

FESTIVAL FUN

East Lancs' Swing Commanders and Soul Train are on the bill for this year's Darwen Jazz and Blues Festival, taking place in the town in August

STORY 11

Stepping out

Paul MacGowan prepares for a marathon walk in memory of his father, tackling terrain including Malham Dale, Pen-y-ghent and two of the three peaks

STORY 19

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Citizen In brief

Best-selling author to visit academy

Best-selling children's author Anthony Horowitz will be visiting Darwen Aldridge Academy on Tuesday, July 5 to open the Learning Resource Centre. Horowitz has written over 50 books, including The Power of Five, Alex Rider and The Diamond Brothers series, as well as adapting many of Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot novels for television.

Park louts blitz

Youngsters drinking alcohol and causing trouble in Accrington parks are to be targeted in a new crackdown. Police said there are issues in all of the town's parks from 6pm onwards most days.

Fly-tipping action

An ongoing problem with fly-tipping in Whitebirk, Blackburn, is blighting Hillside and Delph Lane. Police in the area have teamed up with Blackburn with Darwen Council to tackle the problem.

Joy bubbles over in £3.5m lotto win

By NAZIA PARVEEN

An East Lancashire couple have told of their 'shock and disbelief' after scooping £3.5million on the lottery.

Geoff and Hilary Bennette's numbers came up thanks to lucky dip ticket. Friends said it 'couldn't have happened to a nicer couple'.

Geoff, 61, and Hilary, 54, are well-known in Rishton for their support of the local school and church.

The win hasn't sunk in yet, but the couple are planning to jet off around the world, and possibly buy a cottage in a 'nice little market town near the sea'. However, the first buy will be a new Mini Cooper – an updated version of Geoff's first car when he was 17.

Hilary said: "We are so happy. It is just unbelievable."

Geoff, a school governor at Rishton Methodist Primary School for more than 20 years, has only just retired from his job in leisure and tourism at Bolton Council.

Hilary, who works as a teacher in a local nursery school, has decided to continue working. She said: "I still remain very committed to my job and to the children and I felt it was important to try and keep everything as normal as possible."

Geoff, a committed member of Rishton Methodist Church, is also a regular at cycle events. On the day he found out about his win he had to commentate at Horwich Festival of Racing. "I didn't say anything to anyone, but it was very strange giving race commentary over the microphone as if everything was normal, but deep down knowing we'd won £3.5million," he said.

ALL SMILES: Geoff and Hilary Bennette celebrate with a bottle of champagne

Geoff had been doing the weekly shop at the new Tesco superstore, in Accrington, when he bought the winning ticket. He discovered their good fortune when he checked the Lotto rollover jackpot on teletext at 8am on Sunday, June 19. He said: "I ran upstairs and woke Hilary and got her to double check the numbers. We just sat down in shock and stared at the TV and then each other for ages.

"It still hasn't really sunk in and we're not sure what we are going to do with it all. But one thing that is certain is that we would like to travel the world."

The first stop for the globe-trotting couple will be Australia, followed by New Zealand, Canada and the USA.

Talking about his first purchase, Geoff said: "It will have to be a Mini. I used to have one when I was 17 and it was great. I can't wait to get behind the wheel of a new one."

The Rev Pat Browne, minister at Rishton Methodist Church, said: "This couldn't have happened to a nicer couple who have devoted their lives to the local community."

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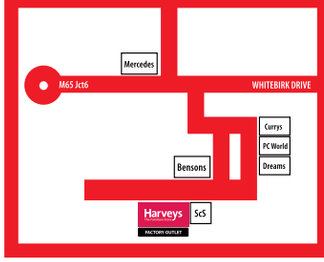

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FUND-RAISERS: Derek Peel and his son, Andrew, who took part in the Great North Swim, below, to help the hospice roof fund

Back in swim for hospice

By DAVID WATKINSON

A grandad who suffered a heart attack in the pool five years ago has completed the Great North Swim for charity.

Derek Peel, 60, took on the open-water challenge of swimming across Windermere with his son, ex Royal Marine Andrew, 36. He completed the one-mile course in 44 minutes.

They raised cash for our sister newspaper the Lancashire Telegraph's Raise the Roof campaign in aid of East Lancashire Hospice, in Blackburn.

The retired car salesman from Cherry Tree, Blackburn, said: "Five years ago I suffered a heart attack while swimming at a local health club.

"Since then I swim more regularly and I hope this will encourage anybody else who has gone through a similar experience not to be frightened of going back in the water, or resuming exercise."

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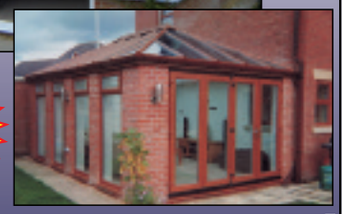

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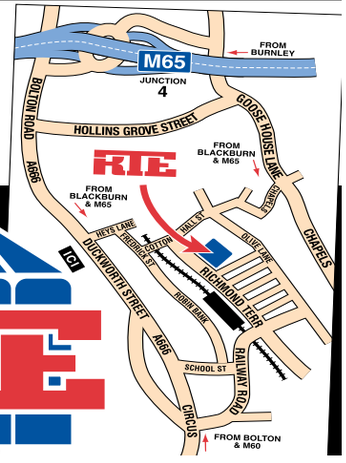

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Former mayor bowing out

By CHRIS HOPPER

A veteran councillor has stepped down after almost 20 years, following a long illness.

The resignation of Conservative member Sheila Williams, who represented Beardwood with Lammack on Blackburn with Darwen Council, has triggered a by-election, due to be held next month.

Coun Williams, last year's borough mayor, said she made the decision to quit because her health meant she could no longer carry out the duties in her ward.

Tory group leader Mike Lee paid tribute to a 'brilliant councillor', who was first elected in 1994.

Coun Williams, who did not want to give details of her illness, said: "It was not a difficult decision because I could not really carry on. I am very sad about it. I had a year left on my term and I would have loved to have served it, but I just couldn't."

VETERAN Sheila Williams

But the former Witton Park High School teacher said she left with 'great memories'.

She added: "I made some great friendships, both within our group and in other groups. I also loved working with the children's services department. I had a great time."

Coun Lee said: "Sheila has been a brilliant councillor and she made a lot of friends in the borough.

"I know how honoured she was to be mayor last year. It was a role she really enjoyed and relished.

"Given that, I know how difficult it was for her to make this decision."

However, Labour's Kate Hollern and Dave Harling said Coun Williams should have stepped down before May's election to avoid triggering a 'costly by-election'.

Polling for the vacant Beardwood and Lammack seat will be held on Thursday, July 28.

Polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm.

Active women

A cheap women-only fitness scheme has arrived. The subsidised 'Active Women in Hyndburn' scheme aims to help women overcome a lack of time, money and childcare preventing them from exercising. It begins with a women's aerobics class on Tuesdays, at Accrington's New Era Complex, from 1.30pm to 2.30pm, costing £1 for a session.

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Honour show for sacrifice

By CHRIS GEE

A poignant exhibition to commemorate Accrington Pals is set to open in the town to mark the 95th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

Members of Baxenden Community Forum and Pals expert, Walter Holmes, have just completed a special display at the Haworth Art Gallery.

The exhibition will open on Friday, 90 years to the day since hundreds of lives were lost when British Battalions went 'over the top' in Northern France. In the first half hour of the battle, 235 Accrington men were killed and 350 injured.

In the following four-month offensive, there were around 1million casualties among all forces involved.

Bill Mathews, Frank McVan and Michael Clarkson from Baxenden Community Forum have selected items of Pals memorabilia to display.

In addition three commemorative mosaics by Hyndburn children and artist Sue Gibson for the 90th anniversary commemoration in 2006 will be on show. The exhibition runs until October 30.

PREPARING FOR WAR: Officers of the Accrington Pals in the Drill Hall, Accrington in 1915. With them, front row, centre, is the then Mayor, John Harwood

Free summer cycle rides

A series of free summer bike rides are taking place across Blackburn with Darwen.

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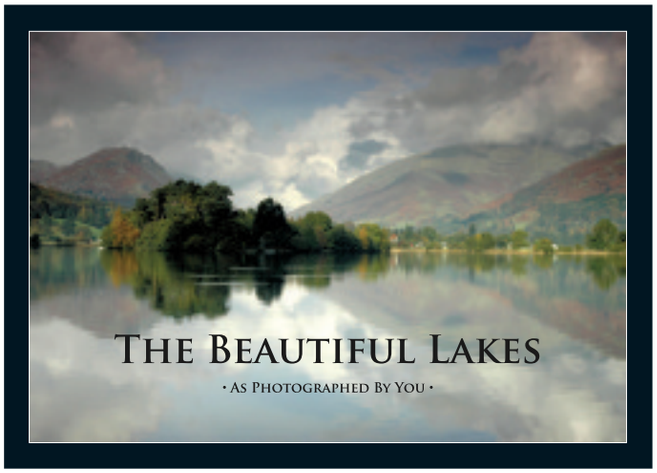

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Son steps up for hospice

By DAVID WATKINSON

A record shop boss is set to walk 26 miles in memory of his late father, Henry, in aid of East Lancashire Hospice.

Paul McGowan, 46, will complete the marathon distance across the Yorkshire Dales, despite never having done any serious walking before.

Last year he ran the Jane Tomlinson 10km race in Blackburn, raising £1,000 and he hopes to raise a similar amount this time with his latest challenge.

Mr McGowan, who runs Townsend Records, in Clitheroe and lives in Baxenden, said: "I have not done anything like this.

"Last year I jumped into my training, but this is a big step up.

"I've never done much walking before, but I'm looking forward to the challenge. Last year a lot of people contributed spectacularly towards my total."

East Lancashire Hospice is one of the official charity partners of the event, on August 14, along with Pendleside Hospice, in Reedley.

The 26-mile marathon walk begins in Settle and is over varied terrain, including Malham Dale and two of the three peaks, Pen-y-ghent and Ingleborough. More than 1,200 people have already signed up for one of four in the inaugural Jane Tomlinson Yorkshire Walking Festival.

MEMORIAL WALK: Paul McGowan and, inset, his dad Henry

Walks of four, five, 14 and 26 miles are taking place.

To sponsor Paul visit www.justgiving.com/Paul-McGowan2 or call 07800 812318.

Mayor to open summer fete

The Mayor of Hyndburn, Coun Colette McCormack, will officially open a summer fete at the Oasis Church, in Blackburn Road, Accrington, at 10.30am on Saturday, July 9.

On trail of help

Great Harwood Panel is looking for new members to help with environmental projects. Join the team on a three-mile walk around the Great Harwood Nature Trail today (Wednesday), from 6.30pm for a chat. Meet at the end of Allsprings Drive.

Get in shape

A Slimming World group is starting on Wednesdays, at 5pm and 7pm, from September 8, at St John's Church, Baxenden. Call Lisa on 07967 438128.

Summer music

Blackburn Symphony Orchestra's Summer Concert takes place on Saturday, July 9, at the Westholme Theatre, Meins Road, from 7.30pm. The group will perform Elgar, Mozart and Mendelssohn. Tickets are £9 from Tourist Information, Blackburn.

Business advice and support

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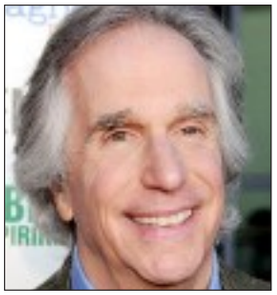
Happy days as TV's The Fonz

Henry Winkler OBE found fame as The Fonz in hit sitcom Happy Days before becoming a successful novelist. He is in the UK for the First News My Way! campaign, supported by THQ uDraw, to raise awareness of the needs of children with learning difficulties.



60 SECONDS WITH ... HENRY WINKLER OBE

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN THE MY WAY CAMPAIGN?
I've written a series of Hank Zipzer novels that were picked up by Walker books, and this year the 12th novel is coming out. While I tour the UK for Hank, I have toured with the First News newspaper. We'd go to two schools a day, so we talk to 1,200 kids a day, and I would tell them my story about how I was not supposed to succeed in any way, but here I am chatting with you. All of a sudden brainstorming, First News and I came up with the My Way campaign.

YOU'RE ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH THE TEACHING AWARDS
Yes, as we go around to all the schools in Ireland, Scotland and England, I have met so many incredible teachers who truly understand the child who learns differently. We launched it a year ago at 10 Downing Street with Sarah Brown, who really is an extraordinarily committed woman, and just a few months ago I got a letter saying that the Queen had graciously agreed to confer on me the Order of the British Empire for just this work.

THE FONZ WAS ORIGINALLY A MINOR CHARACTER IN HAPPY DAYS?
He was. For the first year it was a small part and, as the letters grew, the part grew, and eventually the next year I got 50,000 letters a week from all over the world. It was so scary to leave my apartment when I was not working. I wanted something to do, so I read all that fan mail. What a trip that was. Still to this day I am treated with such warmth anywhere in the world.

What's on

gigs

JOHN MELLENCAMP — Manchester Apollo, Friday, July 1.
SANDI THOM — Thwaites Empire Theatre, Blackburn, Saturday, July 2.
PAUL SIMON — Manchester Apollo, Sunday, July 3.
NEIL DIAMOND — MEN Arena, Monday, July 4 and Wednesday, July 6.
JAMES TAYLOR — MEN Arena, Thursday, July 7.
BLINK 182 — MEN Arena, Friday, July 8.
HAYSEED DIXIE — Manchester Academy, Saturday, July 9.
THE BLACK CROWES — Manchester Academy, Monday, July 11.
LANCASHIRE HOTPOTS — The Grand, Clitheroe, Friday, July 15.
KE$HA — Manchester Apollo, Friday, July 15.
JUDAS PRIEST — Manchester Apollo, Saturday, July 16.
SLASH — Manchester Apollo, Thursday, July 21.
SANDI THOM — Thwaites Empire Theatre, Blackburn, Sunday, July 24.
BRIAN SETZER'S ROCKABILLY RIOT — Manchester Academy, Monday, July 25.
IRON MAIDEN — MEN Arena, Thursday, July 28.
ATHLETE — 53 Degrees, Preston, Thursday, July 28.
BLACK COUNTRY COMMUNION — Manchester Academy, Saturday, July 30.
THE JAYHAWKS — Manchester Academy, Thursday, August 4.

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Jazz festival swings in

Darwen Jazz and Blues Festival is approaching its second year and the event promises to be double the size of the first.

Competing with other music towns across East Lancashire famous for the blues, Darwen has become a hub for jazz. And now festival organisers have vowed to put Darwen on the music map by making the town's annual jazz event 'bigger than Glastonbury' in years to come.

And this year, supported by Darwen Music Projects, extra promotion and more funding from them, the gig is shaping up nicely, offering 'something for everybody'.

Erica Dobie and her business partners Andy Barnes and Paul Rigby, of 3 in a Bar, Belgrave Road, have organised the festival, with support from the council and businesses in the town.

Erica said: "We have had a year to plan, so this year I am sure it will be better."

Jazz and blues lovers came from as far away as London and Cumbria last year to the three-day gig, which was inspired by the likes of Colne's famous Blues Festival.

HEADLINE ACTS: Music from Soul Train, left, and The Swing Commanders

Erica said: "It was great and it's so nice to see different people coming into Darwen. The town has so much to offer. It is quite a cultural place with arts and different stuff going on. The Jazz and Blues Festival could last for years. We want to make it bigger than Glastonbury!"

Headline acts this year include The Swing Commanders (at Darwen Library Theatre), The Soul Train – with support from The Giddy Gringos and DJ John Tree (at Marigolds) – and The Northern Jazz Orchestra (at Darwen Library Theatre).

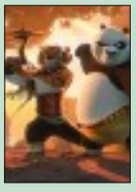
Free acts will also perform in town centre pubs, including Justin Randall, The Cotton House Shakers, and Tramtown Junction. The full line-up will be announced shortly.

● Darwen Jazz and Blues Festival runs from Friday, August 5 to Sunday, August 7. SuperSaver tickets are £22 from Darwen Library Theatre. To book, call 01254 706 006.

Cinema round-up

BRIDESMAIDS (15) Witnesses the devastation wrought by a blushing bride, her maid of honour, and four bridesmaids in Paul Feig's raucous comedy of errors.

THE BEAVER (12A) Mel Gibson stars in this blackly humorous tale of a middle-aged man's emotional breakdown. It deals sensitively with the themes.



KUNG FU PANDA 2 (PG) An energetic martial arts comedy which kicks computer-animated butt and comes close to matching the rumbustious fun of the 2008 original.

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Blackburn Youth Zone is currently recruiting for the following positions:-

- Administration Manager
- Communications Manager
- Volunteer Recruitment and Training Manager

Closing date for applications – Friday 1st July 2011

- And Youth Work Manager

Closing date for applications – Friday 22nd July 2011

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08 (08) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 DESIGN; 5 door, metallic blue, alloys, a/c, only 5,000 miles £7,290
08 (57) ASTRA 1.8 DESIGN AUTOMATIC; 5 door, silver, half leather, alloys, 9,200 miles £7,290
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